DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 395 095 UD 030 943

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TITLE	The Challenge. Preventing Youth Violence. A Report from the Black Community Crusade for Children.
INSTITUTION	Urban Strategies Council, Oakland, CA.
PUB DATE	Sep 94
NOTE	96p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Black Community Crusade for Children, Children's Defense Fund, 25 E Street N.W., Washington, DC 20001.
PUB TYPE	Reports - Evaluative/Feasibility (142)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	*Black Community; Blacks; *Children; Crime; *Helping Relationship; Peace; Prevention; Profiles; *Urban Youth; *Violence; *Youth Programs
IDENTIFIERS	Arkansas (Pine Bluff); California (Oakland); District of Columbia; Second Chance Programs

ABSTRACT

A wave of youth violence in America is hitting African American communities hard. This report highlights some efforts across the country to prevent and stop youth violence. People in Oakland (California), Pine Bluff (Arkansas), and Washington, D.C. were asked about youth violence in their communities. Of the adults surveyed, 77% were afraid that their children or children they knew would become victims of violence. Their comments helped frame the explorations of youth programs in these cities and others described in this report. The 25 programs described with profiles of 3 individuals who had made a difference are divided into 6 sections: (1) "Youth Helping Youth," where young people design and execute their own programs; (2) "Choices," programs that offer alternatives to negative activities and dead-end roads; (3) "What about the Girls?" programs to support young women in violence prevention; (4) "Being There," an exploration of how young people benefit from knowing someone cares; (5) "It's Never Too Late," programs that provide second chances; and (6) "Peace and Healing," programs that go beyond struggling to stop violence. Contains a list of 49 resources for additional help. (SLD)

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